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By A. C. GREENE, Book Editor

## Is the Cloak a Dagger at U.S.?

THERE IS A well-knit rumor current that the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) had (1) asked that "The Invisible Government" be withdrawn from publication and (2) tried to buy up the entire edition.

From what "The Invisible Government" has to say about the CIA either proposition sounds (1) feasible (2) economically possible (3) just the sort of clumsy maneuver the CIA would try.

David Wise and Thomas B. Ross, the authors, have not put together a book altogether well, but it is a powerful book. In the omnium gatherum of their charges, estimations, disclosures and hysterics of discovery over the way the CIA operates they may at times weaken their manuscript by overemphasis—but the central message comes home on page after page: the CIA is too much with us, late and soon, getting and spending, conducting a government within a government which grows more and more powerful and less and less democratic.

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A GREAT MANY people in the United States have accused the Soviets of turning their embassies and consulates into spy nests (a conclusion the authors would agree with) but Wise and Ross point out that the United States is not in a very good position to hurl that particular dead cat on the Russian lawn; the CIA has been moving more and more into the diplomatic field, using the embassy as a "cover" and, their major charge, not even letting the ambassador know what is happening.

In their summary, one of the best chapters of the book, the authors point out that while former CIA director Allen Dulles has said the U.S. government felt compelled to "fight fire with fire" in countering Russia, "special operations" (political coups, etc.) pose dangers not only to the na-

### THE INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT

by David Wise and Thomas B. Ross (Random House, \$5.95)

tions against which they are directed, but to ourselves. They raise the question of how far a free society, in attempting to preserve itself, can emulate a closed society without becoming indistinguishable from it."

In fact, the author's claim, "The National Security Act of 1947 has given Intelligence a more influential position (in the U.S.) than Intelligence enjoys in any other government of the world."

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THE BOOK is primarily a recital of a number of incidents, successful and unsuccessful, that have involved the CIA or its important affiliatory vehicles. Most sensational, and most unsuccessful, was the Cuban Bay of Pigs debacle. The CIA cannot but come out of this account looking like some great lumbering beast.